

REMARKS

Request for Reconsideration

Applicants have carefully considered the matters raised by the Examiner in the previous Office Action but remain of the position that patentable subject matter is present. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Examiner's position based on the above amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

Claim Status

Claims 12-27 and 29-35 are pending in this Application.

Claim 12 has been amended herein to recite that the transparent film also contains a crosslinked polymer and that the crosslinked polymer is a vinyl polymer obtained by polymerization of a low molecular weight compound. The low molecular weight compound is defined as having a molecular weight of 1,000 or less. Furthermore, the low molecular compound is recited as having an unsaturated double bond. Support for these limitations can be found in Claim 28 as well as page 7, line 7 and page 37, lines 14-22.

Claim 32 finds support in the Specification on page 37, lines 21-26. Claim 33 mirrors Claim 12 except that the transparent film is recited as having a cellulose ester crosslinked by a compound containing a plurality of reactive groups, reactive groups being an epoxy group or an acid hydride group. Support for this limitation can be found on page 33, lines 1-5 and lines 23-27. New Claims 34 and 35 are also supported by the Specification on page 33, lines 26-27.

Respectfully, no new matter has been added by way of these amendments and new claims.

Prior Art Rejection

Claims 12-17, 22-27 and 29-35 had been rejected as being unpatentable over Yamada in view of Machell as evidenced by Sabrinho.

Yamada teaches that hydrolyzed polycondensate is formed from a composition that contains tetraethoxysilane which has four hydrolyzable ethoxy groups that can form crosslinks in the polycondensate. In contrast, the present Invention, as recited in Claim 12, refers to a crosslinked vinyl polymer which is obtained from polymerizing low molecular weight compound having a molecular weight of 1,000 or less and having polymerizable unsaturated double bonds. Thus, the crosslinking polymer recited in Claim 12 is different than the one taught in Yamada and Claim 12 defines over the teachings of Yamada.

With respect to Claim 33, Claim 33 recites that the transparent film has a cellulose ester which is crosslinked by a compound containing a plurality of reactive groups wherein the reactive groups is an epoxy groups or an acid hydride group. The cellulose ester crosslinked by such a compound is neither taught nor suggested in Yamada and, thus, Claim 33 defines over the teachings of Yamada.

Furthermore, it is submitted that the data reported in Table 2 of the Application demonstrates the unique aspects of the present Invention. The Examiner's attention is directed to the column headed "*2" which is the moisture permeability after

thermal shock. It can be seen that the moisture permeability after thermal shock for the Invention is substantially lower than the comparative examples. It is submitted that one of skill in the art could not predict this substantial decrease in moisture permeability after thermal shock based on a reading of the Prior Art of Yamada and Machell.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are patentable over the cited references taken alone or in combination.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Should any additional fees or extensions of time be necessary in order to maintain this Application in pending condition, appropriate requests are hereby made and authorization is given to debit Account No. 02-2275.

Respectfully submitted,

LUCAS & MERCANTI, LLP

By:

Donald C. Lucas

Donald C. Lucas, Reg. #31,275
Attorney for Applicants
475 Park Avenue South
New York, NY 10016
Tel. 212-661-8000

DCL/mr